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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rheins and Morhenn Art Unit: 1646  
Application No.: 09/375,609 Examiner: S. Prasad  
Filed: August 17, 1999  
Title: METHODS AND KITS FOR OBTAINING AND ANALYZING SKIN  
SAMPLES FOR THE DETECTION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS (As Amended)

Box CPA  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

21/D  
AJS  
5/20/02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed prior to examination of the above-identified application, filed herewith. Please consider the following remarks and amendments

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 66-69, 96, and 107-110 without prejudice.

Please enter rewritten claims 64, 65, 70, 71, 72, 104, 105, 106, 111, 112, 123 124, 135, and 136 as follows:

<b>CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.10</b> "EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label Number: <b>EV 016 236 622 US</b> Date of Deposit: <b>May 13, 2002</b>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Box CPA, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.	
Aldon Griffis (Name of Person Mailing Paper)	
Aldon Griffis (Signature)	May 13, 2002 (Date)